

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

For Immediate Release: February 24, 2010 News Release: 10-16 Billy Birdwell, Public Affairs Officer, 912.652.5014/5279
After hours 912.677.6039
Billy.E.Birdwell@usace.army.mil
Tracy Robillard, Public Affairs Specialist, 912.652.5758
www.sas.usace.army.mil

Warrior in Transition Complex coming to Fort Benning

SAVANNAH, **GEORGIA** – A new Warrior in Transition (WT) Complex is on the way to Fort Benning, Ga., following the recent contract award for a \$22.4 million WT barracks by the <u>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District</u>.



Artist's rendering provided by B.L. Harbert

The Corps selected B.L. Harbert International of Birmingham, Ala., as the prime contractor for the 120,000-square-foot barracks project. Under the terms of the contract, B.L. Harbert will design and construct a five-story barracks and provide necessary site development. Located near the Fort Benning hospital and designed to house 200 Soldiers, the barracks will provide quality housing for injured Soldiers in need of longer term medical care as they transition back into duty or civilian life, as part of the Army's Warrior Care and Transition Program. The WT barracks are tentatively scheduled for completion in October 2011.

"The Warrior in Transition Complex is tremendously important for the Army and for the Savannah District," said Corps' Project Manager Ruben Del Rio. "These facilities honor the sacrifice of our injured and wounded warriors by providing a higher quality of life and better health care service."

Still to come for Fort Benning's new WT Complex is a Soldier Family Assistance Center and a Battalion Company Operations Facility. The Corps of Engineers plans to award a contract for this remaining portion of the complex in coming months.

"Typically, a WT Complex of this size consists of three types of facilities – barracks, a battalion company operations facility and a Soldier Family Assistance Center," Del Rio said. "The SFAC is important because it provides a comforting place for the families and children. For many families, this may be the first time this Soldier sees his family after he has been injured."

The \$22.4 million WT barracks contract was awarded by the Corps' Fort Worth District, but was recently transferred to the Corps' Savannah District, which will oversee and manage the construction process through completion.

Like all Army construction, the WT barracks will satisfy Silver rating criteria established by the <u>Leadership in Energy</u> <u>and Environmental Design (LEED)</u> rating system, in accordance with the U.S. Green Building Council standards. Eco-friendly features include the use of energy efficient building materials, lighting and ventilation systems.